

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 13, 2023

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Toews, Senators Den Hartog, Nichols, Carlson, Herndon, Lenney, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: None

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Lent** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.

PRESENTATION: **How the largest School District gets Teachers, Students and Parents on track to Achieve. Derek Bub**, gave a presentation before the Committee on how the West Ada School District (District) was successful at engaging with the community and increasing Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities (Attachment 1).
Mr. Bub specifically talked about the transparent communication between district officials and parents of students as highly effective. He noted that the fiscal investments in staffing and in establishing low bonds and levies established a good relationship with parents. He also hit on the CTE options that students had which helped prepare district students for entering the job force. He pointed out that 87 percent of students in the District had taken at least one CTE course. He closed by attributing the District success to "the combination of school choice, CTE opportunities and academic excellence with our very low tax rate and a wide breadth of unique programs that allowed us to continue to conclude that West Ada School District is the best value in education, not only in Idaho, but also regionally and nationally."

DISCUSSION: **Senator Den Hartog** asked Mr. Bub how he used Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) as actionable data. He answered that he used data that tracked students through the whole year to determine how successful a student was.
Senator Herndon asked Mr. Bub about the fact that only 55 percent of students in the District were proficient in math, and how the district quantified proficiency in math. **Mr. Bub** responded by saying that it was in relationship to being on the correct measurable path for college readiness. **Senator Herndon** asked about the 69 percent proficiency in reading and what the other 31 percent of the student population was lacking. **Mr. Bub** informed the Committee that they measure proficiency in English the same way they did in math, by comparing them to college readiness.
Senator Nichols asked if the District was tracking post-secondary students who entered a remedial math or English class after they graduated. **Mr. Bub** responded that he did not have the numbers in front of him but that the District was tracking the students. **Senator Nichols** asked if the District offered a life skills math program or other similar programs that would give every student a basic understanding of math. **Mr. Bub** replied that the District had provided many avenues for providing basic math skills to students with classes such as "Math and Modern Society."

Chairman Lent asked what did 50 percent proficient in math or English look like in comparison to a student who was 100 percent proficient. **Mr. Bub** answered by stating that there was different criteria of what proficiency meant over time and based on grades, but as was stated in a previous question, proficiency was defined as being in step with standards tested on the ISAT and in relationship with being college ready.

PRESENTATION: **College of Western Idaho's Pop the Trunk Initiative (Initiative).** **Oster Hernandez**, Credit Office, College of Western Idaho (CWI), gave a presentation on the Initiative. The Initiative was dedicated to offering a hands-on approach to obtain a Career and Technical Education (CTE) to students at CWI (Attachment 2).

DISCUSSION: **Senator Semmelroth** asked why it was that alternative schools were so often left out or behind when it came to having CTE courses. **Mr. Hernandez** responded that alternative schools were often on different schedules than normal high schools so that had made it harder for alternative high schools to arrange CTE classes. **Senator Semmelroth** asked if the Initiative was targeted at alternative high schools. **Mr. Hernandez** replied that for the current year and the next year it was only targeted to alternative high schools.

MOTION: **Senator Den Hartog** moved to send **RS 30030C1**, **RS 30227**, **RS 30262**, **RS 30340**, and **RS 30363** to print. **Senator Nichols** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Linette Grantham
Secretary

James Nelson
Assistant Secretary